

the characteristic of which must be an energetic prosecution of Home Mission work. We must extend to meet the growing population of the country, and we must do so, not only by calling upon Scotland for money, but by putting our own shoulders to the wheel. And in doing this work we may expect a richer blessing than that which came on us through our former labours: just because it is more Christ-like to help others than to help ourselves. The former epoch tended to make us Congregational; in this we shall become Presbyterian. Each congregation in our church should think not of itself only, but of the whole church; but when its labours are confined to itself, how can church feeling be generated! It is then apt to consider that the church exists for it, and not it for the church. Hence arise unworthy local prejudices, narrowness of view, and blindness to duty: and when these prevail, it needs no prophet to declare that such a church at least cannot be the church of the country and the future.

I read in the London *Spectator*, the other day, a letter from the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, one of the leading Independent ministers of London, in answer to a view taken by the *Spectator* of the superior excellence of a national church to mere Voluntary Societies or Congregations, in which "the minister limits his cares to those who acknowledge his influence and contribute to his support," and I cannot forbear quoting some striking sentences from the letter, because they show that even in that church system in which one congregation represents the whole church, there is a repudiation of isolation. He says:—"If I know anything of the ideas of Independent Ministers at the present day, I may venture to affirm that they look upon their churches as centres of light and christian influence, from which, according to the measure of their radiating power, all around them are to be taught, helped, and blessed. We believe as firmly as you do that the community which lives to itself and for its members only in the way which you indicate, dies. In the church of which I am the minister, our great effort is to utilize the power which is gathered up from the members for the neighborhood around us. I feel myself increasingly disposed to find in what we can give out, rather than in what we can gather in, the test of our vitality, and, in the highest sense, of our success." Those are noble words, and the only pity is, as the *Spectator* says, that there are so few Baldwin Browns. Were there many such, the parochial system might be superseded without loss to the country. In Britain, however, for many a long day to come, that system which our fathers built up to cover the whole land, ramifying to its uttermost corners, will remain a power for good which none but the very ignorant or the very bigoted can refuse to be thankful for. In America, it is very different. The State is secular, and consequently a double work is imposed on the church. She has to give a supply of religious ordinances where there is a demand, and, where there is no demand, she has to try and create one. She must have an educated ministry for the country as well as for the town; for the new and poor settlements, as well as for the old and populous. Has the time, come, then, for us to begin to pay half of our own debts—to keep house for ourselves,—asking half from our kind mother only after we have done all that we can ourselves; to pull together, and help each other, and so feel that we are one church? We are all pretty well agreed that it has. We are the oldest colonies; and no wonder that the Committee ask when our term of pupilage is to come to an end,—that they may be enabled to turn to new fields, or concentrate their efforts on the heathen world. Could we not say to the Committee, "We require £1000 stg. per annum: give us half, and we will raise the other half; we will on no account ask for more, and hope soon to ask for less?" There are five Presbyteries of us now, that of Halifax having in it by far the fewest members of the Kirk. Cannot we raise £500 sterling annually among us? I can guarantee the fifth part of the sum from the Presbytery of Halifax—from what I know of this year's subscriptions: and if more is needed, I am sure that it would be given.

G. M. G.